

REMARKS

An international preliminary action report cited the international application, WO Publication No. 01/17167 (BROADCOM).

Applicant has amended claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-18 and 20. New claims 21 and 22 have been added. Support for the amendments and the new claims can be found in the present specification, page 6, lines 14-30, page 7, lines 5-22 and FIGS. 2 and 3.

Broadcom fails to teach claims 1-22.

For example, with respect to claim 1, Applicants claim a synchronization circuit that is configured to receive a predicted master timestamp value and synchronize accordingly. However, when notified that the predicted master timestamp value is erroneous, the synchronization circuit is configured to become the new master by itself predicting master timestamp values and sending these to other CMTSs. See page 7, lines 21-22, "[t]he circuit receiving the error message could then take over operation as a new master TCS." Broadcom does not teach or suggest the feature of a slave CMTS taking over as a master in response to an indication of an erroneous prediction.

With respect to claim 10, Applicants claim a system for extrapolating the occurrence and the value of a future master timestamp values by observing previous timestamp values to determine a period and a difference between actual master timestamp values. This is described in the present specification, page 6, lines 14-27 with reference to the timing diagram:

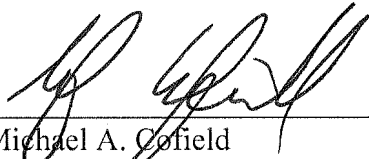
The processor 40A in master TSC 18A calculates the period T between pulses 50 and 52 to be five counts. The processor 40A predicts that the master timestamp counter 44A will have a value of forty at pulse 54. See page 6, lines 14-27.

Broadcom does not teach or suggest extrapolating master timestamp values using an observed period and differences between actual master timestamp values.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any questions arise concerning the above-mentioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

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